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ABSTRACT

This guide is designed to be used with the textbook "Working with Young Children" to assist in the completion of requirements to earn the Child Development Associate Credential. Chapters coordinate with those in the textbook, providing opportunities to apply what is learned in the reading and in coursework. The chapters begin with a list of the CDA competency goals and functional areas addressed in the reading and exercises. Each chapter of the guide is divided into four parts. Part 1 involves a reading assignment from Working with Young Children, while part 2 entails reviewing the reading by answering short answer and essay questions. Part 3 requires conducting specific observations and using the guidelines to evaluate what was observed. Part 4 involves applying what was learned through answering questions, creating teaching strategies, planning activities, or outlining lessons. Pre- and post-training self-assessments are provided to evaluate how well the learner performs the CDA skills before and after completing the text and this guide. Guidelines for observation are provided. The 32 competency goals are divided into six major areas: (1) establishing and maintaining a safe, healthy learning environment; (2) advancing physical and intellectual competence; (3) supporting social and emotional development and providing positive guidance; (4) establishing positive and productive relationships with families; (5) ensuring a well-run purposeful program responsive to participant need; and (6) maintaining a commitment to professionalism. An appendix contains a parent questionnaire, suggestions for talking with children, and a list professional organizations. (KB)

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